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Respectfully submitted,

By: Thomas L. Evans  
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BANNER AND WITCOFF, LTD.

Atty. Docket No.  
006004.00013

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Ronald BARCHI ET AL.

U.S. Pat. App. No.: 09/921,015

Group Art Unit: 2175

Filed: August 1, 2001

For: ATTRIBUTE RULE ENFORCER FOR A DIRECTORY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

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MAY 14 2004

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully ask for reconsideration of both this application and the Office Action dated February 9, 2004.

In that Office Action, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,609,121 to Ambrosini et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and courteously ask for its reconsideration. Claims 1-13 recite a method of processing calls to a directory that

includes evaluating a call according to one or more rules governing data that may be included in the directory. Claims 14-26 are then directed to a rule attribute enforcer. As recited in these claims, the rule attribute enforcer include a rule validator for determining if attributes in a call to a directory comply with rules governing data that may be included in the directory, and a transaction monitor that diverts intercepted calls to the rule validator that include a request to add data to the directory, a request to modify data in the directory, or a request to delete data from the directory, and forwards intercepted calls to the directory that do not include a request to add data to the directory, a request to modify data in the directory, or a request to delete data from the directory. Applicants respectfully submit that the Ambrosini et al. patent does not teach or suggest these features of the invention.

Instead, the Ambrosini et al. patent is directed to a technique for mapping an LDAP directory interface to a Directory Assistance system. Accordingly, the portions of the Ambrosini et al. patent relied upon by the Examiner to support the outstanding rejection describe how search arguments compatible with one interface are converted to search arguments compatible with the other interface. This description does not, however, teach or suggest the use of rules that govern the data that actually can be inserted into a directory. Further, nothing in the Ambrosini et al. patent would particularly anticipate the features of claims 14-26. For example, nothing in the Ambrosini et al. patent would teach or suggest a transaction monitor that selectively diverts intercepted calls that include a request to add data to the directory, a request to modify data in the directory, or a request to delete data from the directory.

Accordingly, Applicants again submit that the Ambrosini et al. patent would not teach or

suggest the features of the invention recited in claims 1-26. It is therefore requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

It is believed that no fees are due for the submission of this Response. If, however, the Commissioner deems that such fees are necessary, or that any other fees are required to maintain the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable, and that this application is therefore in condition for allowance. Favorable action in this regard is courteously requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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May 10, 2004